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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,569	03/30/2004	Shuji Tanaka	9319S-000687	4100
27572	7590	06/27/2005	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			SHARMA, RASHMI K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/813,569	Applicant(s) TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Rashmi K. Sharma	Art Unit 3651	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/30/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 3/30/04 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wu et al. (U.S. Patent number 5,976,199).

Wu et al. discloses an intermediate product carrying apparatus for taking a carrier (50, 70, 80), which is carried between a plurality of process systems (see Figures 2, 13 and 17) and which stores a plurality of intermediate products into a desired process system, and then transferring the plurality of intermediate products in the carrier to a single wafer carrying conveyer (50, 74, 76 or see Figures 2, 5-8, 10, 13 and 17), which carries the intermediate products in a single wafer state to an intermediate product manufacturing apparatus provided in the desired process system, the intermediate product carrying apparatus comprising an intermediate product transfer

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means provided in the desired process system, for taking the carrier (50, 70, 80) into the desired process system and transferring the intermediate products between the carrier and another carrier (read column 13 lines 1-53), wherein the single wafer carrying conveyor has a plurality of platforms in the carrying direction and each platform holds at least one intermediate product (see Figure 6), wherein the intermediate product transfer means comprises a carrier stocker (154) holding a plurality of carriers, a first transfer section taking the carriers carried between the process systems into the carrier stocker and removing the carriers from the carrier stocker (154), an intermediate product stocker storing the intermediate products, an intermediate product transfer and order-change means transferring the intermediate products stored in the carrier of the carrier stocker to the intermediate product stocker and storing again the intermediate products of the intermediate product stocker into the carrier of the carrier stocker thereby changing the arrangement order of the intermediate products, a second transfer section transferring the order-changed intermediate products of the carrier between the carrier and the single wafer carrying the conveyor (read column 3 lines 49-67 and column 4 lines 1-36). The second transfer section comprises at least one transfer robot, a plurality of transfer robots whereby a tray (74) for the intermediate products is provided between the transfer robots (see Figures 16 and 17), wherein the intermediate products are semiconductor wafers and a plurality of manufacturing apparatuses for processing the intermediate products are arranged along the single wafer carrying conveyor.

Wu et al. also discloses an intermediate product carrying method comprising a carrier take-in step of taking the carrier into the desired process system, an intermediate product transfer step of transferring the intermediate products stored in the carrier and transferring the transferred intermediate products to a single wafer conveyor and an intra-process single wafer carrying step of carrying the intermediate products in a single wafer state to an intermediate product manufacturing apparatus provided in the process system by the single wafer carrying conveyor, wherein the intermediate products are semiconductor wafers and wherein the single wafer carrying conveyor has a plurality of platforms in the carrying direction and each platform holds at least one intermediate product.

### ***Conclusion***

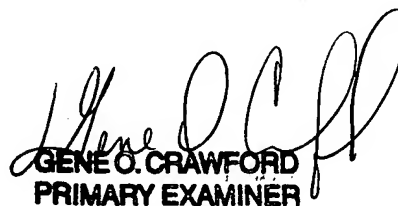
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rashmi K. Sharma whose telephone number is 571-272-6918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on 571-272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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GENE O. CRAWFORD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER